



VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT, URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949.

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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To the Chairman and Councillors.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1949.

In December your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J.S. Cameron, resigned in order to enter general practice in Scotland, and I had the honour to be appointed as your Medical Officer of Health in his place. The report, therefore, covers the period of eleven months of Dr. Cameron's office during the year, and is, therefore, virtually a proxy report on his behalf.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector has included his figures in this Report in respect of the duties he has carried out. As can be seen from the tables he has, in his capacity as Meat Inspector, continued to examine very large quantities of meat at the Bacon Factory, and the condemnation figures illustrate only too clearly the vital importance of this aspect of his work.

The year showed a slight increase in the cases of infectious diseases, due mainly to measles and whooping cough. This was not unexpected, however, in view of the natural history of these diseases. Tuberculosis increased by 4 cases to a total of 18, but the true increase over the previous year was in fact 2 cases if allowance is made for transfers from the mainland.

The live-birth rate decreased from 16.1 to 15.0 per 1000, and stillbirths decreased from 27.5 to 19.2 per 1000 live and stillbirths. This latter figure is encouraging, but the former figure gives cause for considerable concern.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1949 was 6820 (civilian population), an increase of 230, which has, of course, aggravated the housing shortage.

The housing question, with its concomitant effects of overcrowding, continues to be the major problem of this Department. The consequences of this overcrowding are many, the most serious being the effect on the physical and mental health of the children. The problems of tuberculosis, and other respiratory diseases, juvenile delinquency, and many other urgent social questions are all related, directly or indirectly, to the shortage of housing. As you have already seen, the birth rate has again fallen, and I prophesy that it will continue to fall until adequate and reasonable living accommodation is made available for the young parents. The full impact of this falling birth-rate will be felt in less than twenty years from now, when the age groups of the population will be grossly unbalanced. Since 1900 the expectation of life has increased by 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years for males and 20 years for females, and it is apparent that these figures will be considerably greater by 1970. In 1900, out of every 100 males born, only 33 attained the age of 65, whereas already over 60 males can now attain that age.

The consequences will be that within a generation from now the care of old people will present stupendous difficulties, not least of which will be the provision of suitable living accommodation. There are few houses being built today of such design as will be suitable for occupation by old persons. As institutional life for the old people will be not only undesirable but economically impossible for the country to support, it may be found that the only satisfactory alternative will be to attach to a large proportion of our future houses a small self contained annexe in which old persons can live as active members of the community, cared for by



their younger relatives and contributing, as far as their faculties permit, to the common good.

Albeit the econmic and social repercussions are already far-reaching and it is my opinion that the solution of the housing problem is also directly and indirectly the solution of our present social and health problems as they exist today.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD WARREN BROWNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
Salisbury Gardens,  
Ventnor, I.W.

November, 1950

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

John S. Cameron.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.      Resigned 15.12.49.

Donald Warren Browne.

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Appointed 28.11.49.

Sanitary Inspector,  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

A.G. Saunders.

Cert. R.S.I., M.R.S.I.

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# GENERAL.

## Statistics.

Area in acres ... ..	3522
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) ...	2309
Rateable value .. ...	£62,759
Sum represented by 1d. rate ... ..	£244
<u>Population</u> - Registrar General's Estimate ...	6820 *
(Civilians & Non-Civs.)	6890
<u>Live births</u> - Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	15.0
<u>Live births</u> - Rate per 1,000 of England and Wales ... ..	16.7
<u>Stillbirths</u> - Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths .. ...	19.2
<u>Deaths</u> - Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	15.7
Comparative factor ... ..	0.7
Comparative death rate ... ..	11.1
Rate for England and Wales ... ..	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes ..	1

Deaths of infants under one  
year of age:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate ... ..	2	-
Illegitimate .. ...	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births... ..	19.6
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.2
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	-

\* This figure is used for calculating birth rate, death rate or  
the incidence of notifiable diseases.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Information regarding such services was fully set out in  
1938 Report. There are no changes to record.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1/
Pneumonia	3	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	24	-	-
Whooping Cough	19	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	2	-
TOTAL.	56	3	2

N.B. Puerperal death occurred in Newport and was transferred later  
to this area as permanent residence was established here.

# AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

	Menin- gitis.	Scar- let Fever.	Oph. Neo.	Diph.	Pneu- monia	Folio- myel- itis.	Meas- les.	Whoop- Cough.	Erys- ip- elas.	Puer. Pyrex.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
1 and under 2	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	-	-
2 -do- 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-
3 -do- 4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
4 -do- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5 -do- 10	-	5	-	-	-	-	13	5	-	-
10 -do- 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 -do- 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
20 -do- 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 -do- 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -do- 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Totals	-	6	-	1	3	-	24	19	3	-

FOOD AND SONING OUTBREAKS - NONE NOTIFIED

## DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

Urban District ... .. Ventnor.

Aged under 5 years. 5 - 15.

The percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.49. 39.8 50.7

(This estimate includes so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangements and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From the weekly returns of Headteachers :-

Mumps.	36
Chickenpox.	39
Ringworm.	2
Influenza and	
Influenzal Colds.	6
Impetigo.	1
Jaundice.	14
Total.	98



# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	Total.	New Cases.				Total.	Deaths.			
		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -do- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -do- 10	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
10 -do- 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -do- 20	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -do- 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -do- 35	6	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
35 -do- 45	4	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
45 -do- 55	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 -do- 65	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	≠18	8	5	1	4	≠≠ 4	3	-	-	1

\* This number includes 6 transfers from the mainland and 1 case in which the death return gave the first information.

\*\* This total includes 1 case in which the death return gave the first information and two cases which died from other causes.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1949, for the Urban District of Ventnor in the County of the Isle of Wight.

### PART I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	29	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	46	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total.	33	75	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.5)					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

WATER.

The water supply to the area is derived from three sources, viz:-

(a) The Wroxall-Ventnor railway tunnel originating from the downland catchment area.

(b) An adit leading into a well below the pumping station.

(c) A heading into St. Martin's Down for the supply of the Wroxall District.

Supplies are used also from the St. Lawrence Spring by purchase from the Rural District Council.

The quantity of water available during the summer of 1949 was inadequate. A pumping station was built by the Water Engineer at the Shanklin supply at Manor Road, Wroxall, and the water from this was pumped into the Ventnor mains, which made a welcome addition to our supplies.

The purity of these supplies is now beyond reproach but the physical properties fall short of excellence by reason of the high sileaceous content. During the year the number of samples examined was:-

Chemical Nil.  
Bacteriological 5



## HOUSING.

### Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts).	102
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	113
2.	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidating Regulations 1925-32.	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	102

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers 102

### Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
	2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
	(a) by owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
	2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.	
	1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil
	2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
	2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Houses, Public Health Act.	102
Slaughterhouses.	203
Butchers Shops.	270
Food Shops.	292
Hotels, Boarding Houses and Cafes.	34
Bakehouses.	55
Cowsheds.	57
Dairies.	65
Fish Shops.	55
Fried Fish Shops.	52
Drains Inspected.	105
Drains Tested.	62
Revisits to property under notice.	79
Public Conveniences.	63
Factory and Workshops.	75
Interviews with owners and others.	101
Complaints.	85
Pigsties and Stables.	34
Miscellaneous.	95
Infectious diseases.	8
Fumigations.	19
Water Samples.	5
	<u>1916</u>

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

Roofs repaired.	13
Dampness remedied.	8
Floors repaired.	21
Window sashes repaired.	5
Window sash cords renewed.	4
Doors repaired or renewed.	5
Grates -do-	10
Copper furnace repaired.	1
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed.	7
Eaves gutters and down spouts repaired or renewed.	7
Chimney pots renewed.	1
Drains repaired and cleaned.	18
Water service pipes renewed.	2
New W.C. pans.	8
" " seats.	10
Soil pipes repaired.	4
Ventilation provided.	2
Ceilings and walls repaired.	9
" " " redecorated.	28
Yard paving repaired or relaid.	2
Water Storage tanks renewed.	2
" " " cleansed.	3
Sink waste pipe renewed.	1
Inspection chambers built.	2
" " covers replaced.	3

## EXHUMATIONS.

Under a Faculty from the Home Office, I was present at the exhumation of the body of a woman on the 15th February, 1949 at Ventnor Cemetery. The body was removed to the mainland for re-interment.

Also under a Faculty from the Home Office, I was present at the exhumation of 55 bodies interred in the burial ground of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Bonchurch, I.W.

All 55 bodies were removed to the Ventnor Cemetery and on the 4th July, 49 were re-interred in one communal grave. The whole work was carried out in four weeks and all sanitary matters observed and all due reverence paid.



STATEMENT OF MEAT CONDEMNED 1949.

	<u>Cattle Excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed, if known.	-	-	-	-	7571
Numbers inspected.	-	-	-	-	7571
All diseases except T.B. - whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	2
All diseases except T.B. - part of organ condemned.	-	-	-	-	67
T.B. only - whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	35
T.B. only - Carcasses of which some part of the organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	379

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED, 1949.

Pigs carcasses.	37
Pigs heads.	187
Pigs plucks.	259
Bacon.	8 lbs.

Total weight of meat condemned:- 10852 lbs.

FISH.

Skate.	7½ stone.
Cod Fillet.	34 "
Plaice.	8 "
Dog Fish.	2 "
Bream.	2½ "
Haddock.	5 "
Kippers.	4 "

Total: 63 stone.



VARIOUS OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Milk.	132	tins
Tomatoes.	12	"
Peas.	56	"
Soups.	8	"
Beetroot.	61	"
Peaches.	7	"
Crayfish.	6	"
Pork Loaf.	13	"
Beef Loaf.	16	"
Veal Loaf.	18	"
Bacon.	3	"
Plums.	7	"
Grapefruit.	3	"
Spaghetti.	4	"
Salmon.	13	"
Whiting.	19	"
Tongue.	9	"
Carrots.	2	"
Crab Paste.	13	"
Beans.	12	"
Sardines.	1	"
Pilchards.	7	"
Kippers.	2	"
Herrings.	3	"
Potatoes.	2	"
Marmalade.	4	"
Melon and Lemon Jam.	25	"
Cheese.	22	lbs.
Margarine.	4	"
Beef Sausage.	18	"
Shell Eggs.	1407	No.

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November, 1950.